

Westerville Area Chamber Business Advocacy Council Position for the Westerville Public Library 2024 Levy

The Business Advocacy Council (BAC) recommended that the Chamber Board of Trustees support the Westerville Public Library (WPL) .75 mill additional operating levy in the upcoming November 5, 2024 election. This is the library's first request for a tax increase in 13 years. The Chamber Board of Trustees voted to take a supportive stance on the WPL levy.

The decision was made by the BAC looking through a business lens.

- The library offers a multitude of business resources:
- Researching industry specific data and trends, access to current news from around the world with a digital newsstand, sample business plans, and LinkedIn Learning with thousands of business, tech, and creative topics to name a few.
- Digital Creation Station and Innovation Lab that includes green screen, recording studio, photo & video editing software, augmented & virtual reality software, custom printing services, laminator, video recording space
- Meeting space
- Rent a librarian includes one on one assistance for training with library and research services
- Notary appointments
- 'Job Help' events which include resume writing tips, interviewing tips, participants learning from employers about key skills and attributes considered for employment in partnership with Westerville WorkWISE Collective (the Chamber co-leads the Collective).

For every \$1.00 spent by the Westerville Public Library, the total economic benefit provided to our community is \$4.57. (*Calculation uses 2023 data and the Ohio Library Council's ROI calculator.*) Since the last WPL levy passed 13 years ago, the library's costs have increased while the library's revenue has not increased at the same rate.

Property taxes are the main source of revenue for the library. This proposed levy would cost residents \$26 annually per \$100,000 home and commercial property value starting on January 1, 2025.

Thriving library that includes a multitude of services for citizens (including business services) reflects a thriving community, which helps establish a thriving business community

Registered voters living within the Westerville City School District are eligible to vote for this levy. Below is the ballot language. In Franklin County the levy will be Issue #43, no issue numbers are used in Delaware.

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

Westerville Public Library Franklin and Delaware Counties

A major affirmative vote is necessary for passage

An additional tax for the benefit of the Westerville Public Library for the purpose of current expenses that the county auditor estimates will collect \$3,189,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 0.75 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$26 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2024, first due in calendar year 2025.

For more information: <https://westervillelibrary.org/levy/>